

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001928

FOR EA SPECIAL ASSISTANT QUINN

FOLLOWING REPEAT JAKARTA 0043 ACTION SECSTATE 03 JAN 78

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0043

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: WIDJOJO'S COMMENTS ON NYT ARTICLE ABOUT PL-480 AND HUMAN
RIGHTS

REF: A) JAKARTA 5772 B) STATE 303048

1. DURING OUR JANUARY 2 MEETING, MINISTER OF STATE AND CHAIRMAN
OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD WIDJOJO NITISASTRO SAID TOP
LEVELS OF THE GOI HAD BEEN EXTREMELY UPSET BY THE DECEMBER 18
NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE, PARTICULARLY ATTRIBUTION TO A STATE
DEPARTMENT SOURCE OF THE COMMENT THAT SIGNATURE OF OUR
SIDELETTER TO THE RECENT PL-380 AMENDMENT IMPLIED ADMISSION
THAT INDONESIA WAS IN VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS CREATED
THE IMPRESSION, WIDJOJO SAID, THAT INDONESIA WAS ACTING ON AN
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IMPORTANT INTERNAL MATTER IN RESPONSE TO U.S. PRESSURE. TOP
LEVEL INDONESIANS WERE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO ANY SUCH
INDICATIONS. AS EVIDENCE OF THE STRONG FEELING OVER THIS MATTER,
WIDJOJO SAID IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT A HIGH LEVEL MEETING
INCLUDING PRESIDENT SUHARTO, WIDJOJO, DEFENSE MINISTER PANGGABEAN,
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR AND MINISTER OF STATE/STATE
SECRETARY SUDARSONO.

2. I REITERATED THAT, AS WE HAD INFORMED THE GOI EARLIER AND AS ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLEYSTEN HAD REPORTED IN HIS LETTER, THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE DID NOT REFLECT THE POSITION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THAT POSITION WAS AS OUTLINED IN THE GLEYSTEN LETTER AND THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS STATEMENT. WIDJOJO SAID HE RECOGNIZED THIS AND APPRECIATED WHAT WE HAD DONE TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE. WE HAD TO UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THE EXTREME INDONESIAN SENSITIVITY AND THE INTERNAL POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ANY INDICATION INDONESIA WAS ACTING IN RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL PRESSURES. ALSO, THE TIMES ARTICLE PLACED HIM (WIDJOJO) IN A DIFFICULT POSITION SINCE HE HAD RECOMMENDED SIGNATURE OF THE SIDELETTERS.

3. COMMENT: WIDJOJO'S ASSISTANCE WAS CRUCIAL TO QUICK CONCLUSION OF OUR RECENT PL-480 NEGOTIATIONS. HE MAY BE LESS FORTHCOMING ON SUCH MATTERS IN THE FUTURE. WIDJOJO LEFT THE FINAL OUTCOME OF GOI CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER A BIT UP IN THE AIR BUT B.S. ARIFIN, THE NEW FONDEPT SECRETARY GENERAL, TOLD ME JANUARY 3 THAT AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE PROCUREMENT AUTHORIZATIONS WOULD BE SENT TO THE INDONESIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TODAY OR TOMORROW.
MASTERS

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER".

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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